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Sixty-second plenary session
Paris, 9-11 April 2014
Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda
Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Report of the third meeting of the 2013/2014 Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with the Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau (ECE/CES/2007/8), adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians at its fifty-third plenary session. Referring to the Rules, the Bureau acts as a steering body of the Conference. The report includes decisions taken by the Bureau at its 28-29 January 2014 meeting on the work carried out under the auspices of the Conference.

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I. Introduction

1. The third meeting of the 2013/2014 Bureau was held in Geneva on 28-29 January 2014. The following members of the Bureau attended: Mr. W. Smith (Chairman), Mr. B. Aydemir (Turkey), Ms. M. Bruun (Finland), Ms. J. Matheson (the United Kingdom), Mr. K. Pesendorfer (Austria) and Mr. A. M. Ortega (representing Mr. Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape, Mexico). The following permanent observers also attended: Mr. L. M. Ducharme (IMF), Ms. M. Durand, (OECD), Ms. C. Sá (representing Mr. W. Radermacher, Eurostat), Mr. A. Kosarev (representing Mr. Sokolin, CIS-STAT) and Ms. L. Bratanova (UNECE). Mr. S. Sperlich (University of Geneva) and Mr. P Dembinski (Observatoire de la Finance, Genève) attended for agenda item 2 (b), Mr. R. Smith for agenda item 4 (c) (via an audioconference), and Mr. R. Diez de Medina for agenda item 7.

2. The following persons assisted the members of the Bureau: Ms. A. L. MacMillan (Canada), Ms. S. Onur (Turkey) and Ms. M. J. Santos (Eurostat). Ms. T. Luige of UNECE served as Secretary of the meeting.

3. The following staff of the UNECE Statistical Division also attended: Mr. C. Boldsen, Ms. T. Dimova, Ms. A. Peltola, Mr. S. Vale, Mr. P. Valente and Mr. A. Vikat.

II. In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas

A. Measuring social protection

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/2 by UNECE

4. The CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of measuring social protection based on a paper by the Secretariat. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Measuring social protection is a complex area of high policy importance. It covers a broad range of issues and involves different institutions at national and international level, many of these from outside official statistics;

(b) The differences in measuring social protection stem from different uses of the data, and it may not be possible to impose universal standards for all purposes. However, a certain level of harmonization is needed to facilitate international comparability and ensure that the data are based on sound methodology. There is currently a momentum to define basic standards in this area. The Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) is working towards harmonization in this field;

(c) Any possible future work on this topic under CES should add value to the existing initiatives;

(d) The suggestions for future work included organizing a CES seminar to discuss the issues and challenges in this area. The following potential work areas were mentioned: developing a small set of internationally comparable indicators on social protection, considering the recipient side of social protection, the parts of society not covered by social protection, use of administrative data, and funding of the social security. It was noted that some aspects of measuring social protection could be considered within the Task Force on poverty.

Conclusions

5. The Bureau recognised the need for more harmonisation in measuring social protection. The Secretariat, in consultation with OECD, World Bank and ILO will inform the Bureau about the outcome of the meeting of the SPIAC-B group in May 2014. On this basis, the Bureau will decide about possible further work related to measuring social protection at its October 2014 meeting.

B. Leading, composite and sentiment indicators and official statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/3 by UNECE

6. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of leading, composite and sentiment indicators and official statistics based on a paper by the Secretariat.

7. Mr. Dembinski (Observatoire de la Finance, Geneva, University of Fribourg) had contacted the UNECE Secretariat before the CES Bureau meeting with a proposal to cooperate on a research project on composite indicators. The aim of the project is to review a number of composite indicators and analyse their conceptual meaningfulness, statistical robustness and role in public debates. Mr. Sperlich (University of Geneva) and Mr. Dembinski were invited to the Bureau meeting to present the proposal.

8. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Strong demand exists for leading, composite and sentiment indicators. If statistical offices do not use their data and expertise to produce these indicators, other organizations may compile them with lower quality;

(b) On one hand, official statisticians are very cautious about leading, composite and sentiment indicators. Some statistical offices do not consider that producing such indicators provides a competitive advantage and is a good use of the limited resources. On the other hand, many national statistical offices and international organizations (such as OECD) are already producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators. Official statistics provide the quality criteria to ensure that the indicators are based on a sound methodology and can guide users on how to interpret the indicators. Producing these kind of indicators can improve users' perception of the relevance and value of official statistics;

(c) The area lacks international coordination and a systematic approach. There is a need for discussion at international level to achieve a common understanding of the role of statistical offices in this area. The in-depth review paper presents good proposals for further work. Organising a workshop or seminar on this topic could be considered;

(d) Collaboration with researchers is important. The research project proposed by the Swiss universities was considered useful. It was suggested that the project could focus on a few policy areas instead of covering the whole range. The outcomes of the project would be a valuable contribution to the discussion;

(e) It would be useful to develop a taxonomy of leading, composite and sentiment indicators. Various indicators are produced in countries and there is room for harmonization to enable better international comparability and reliability;

(f) The challenges related to leading and composite indicators are different from the sentiment indicators. There is a link between leading indicators and Big Data. Compiling composite indicators may require value judgments concerning the weighting of different components. This is not in line with the Fundamental Principles of official statistics;

(g) Providing a quality checklist for users might be a practical approach;

(h) The Active Ageing Index produced by UNECE will be added to the indicators described in the paper;

(i) Eurostat provided detailed comments in writing focusing on the need for a coherent classification and giving further information on on-going activities.

Conclusions

9. The Secretariat will update the in-depth review paper to take into account comments by the Bureau. The topic will be discussed at the CES plenary session in April 2014 to seek input from the CES members. The Secretariat will prepare a proposal for further work, based on the CES discussion, for the October 2014 Bureau meeting.

10. The Secretariat will follow up on the Swiss research project on composite indicators.

C. Follow-up to the in-depth review of political and other community activities and volunteering

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/4 by UNECE

11. The Bureau discussed possible follow-up to the in-depth review of measuring political and other community activities, including volunteering, which was conducted by the Bureau in February 2013. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The potential CES seminar topic should have a clear focus, it is not recommended to broaden the topic to cover social capital, wellbeing, etc.;

(b) As a first step, a small group of countries could draft a possible road map in this area. It will be important to identify a country to lead the group.

Conclusions

12. The Secretariat will consult with a small group of countries/organizations (such as those who were interested in a CES seminar on this topic) to develop a proposal on the way forward in this area, and report to the October 2014 Bureau meeting.

D. Follow-up to the in-depth review of entrepreneurship

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/5 by OECD, Eurostat and UNECE

13. The Bureau discussed follow-up to the in-depth review of entrepreneurship statistics which was conducted by the Bureau in October 2013. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The in-depth review contributed to a renewed momentum in entrepreneurship statistics. Issues related to entrepreneurship are currently tackled by the CES Task Force on Statistical Business Registers and the joint Eurostat/OECD Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme (EIP). The next meeting of EIP in May 2014 will be open to non-EU/OECD member countries;

(b) The Bureau acknowledged the work of the Task Force on Statistical Business Registers as a model of effective inter-organizational collaboration, and noted that the upcoming guidelines on business registers will be critical for compiling comparable entrepreneurship statistics. The Task Force was encouraged to follow the outcomes of the EIP work related to entrepreneurship indicators;

(c) Concern of possible duplication of work among the groups working on business registers was raised, namely the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers and the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Expert Group on Business registers. There are synergies

between the groups: they meet on alternate years and have a largely overlapping membership. The CES Task Force on Statistical Business Registers was considered to have a clear mandate with concrete expected outcomes (the group will be closed after submitting the Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers to the CES plenary session for approval in 2015).

Conclusions

14. The Bureau asked Eurostat and OECD to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat, a proposal for possible future activities on entrepreneurship statistics, taking into account the outcome of the meeting of the Eurostat/OECD Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme in May 2014.

15. The Secretariat will clarify the mandate and role of the Wiesbaden Group in consultation with the current chair of the Steering Group of the Wiesbaden Group and the UN Statistics Division in New York since the group reports to the UNSC. The Bureau will come back to the issue in October 2014.

E. Selection of topics for in-depth reviews in 2014-2015

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/6 by UNECE

Conclusions

16. The following topics were selected for the next in-depth reviews, including the countries responsible for preparing the papers to provide basis for discussion:

(a) Demographic projections (Canada and the United Kingdom, review in October 2014);

(b) Measuring extreme events and disasters (Mexico and possibly New Zealand, review in October 2014);

(c) Process-oriented approach to statistical production (Turkey, review in February 2015);

(d) Labour movements and globalisation (Austria, review in February 2015).

17. The Secretariat will invite Statistics New Zealand to contribute to the in-depth review on measuring extreme events and disasters as a co-author with Mexico.

18. The Bureau selected the leading, composite and sentiment indicators for discussion at the 2014 CES plenary session to obtain input from all CES members.

F. Updated template for in-depth review papers

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/7 by UNECE

Conclusions

19. The Bureau approved the updated template for in-depth review papers (document ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/7).

III. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe statistical work and teams of specialists

A. Outcome of the seminar on poverty measurement

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/8 by UNECE

20. The Bureau discussed the outcome of the seminar on the Way forward in poverty measurement held on 2-4 December 2013, and reviewed the proposed terms of reference for a Task Force on Poverty Measurement. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) In view of the Post-2015 agenda, the Task Force should consider intra-household poverty (poverty among children, women and elderly) and explore how other concepts, such as inequality and social exclusion, relate to poverty;

(b) The work of the Task Force will be challenging due to the proliferation of poverty indicators. Defining relative and absolute poverty may be controversial and will, thus, require wide consultations. The Task Force should work in stages and build upon the lessons learned from previous initiatives, such as the different approaches adopted by the World Bank, OECD, Rio city group and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative;

(c) The Task Force should pay special attention to issues related to communicating information about poverty to policy makers and the general public;

(d) The next seminar on poverty could take place in spring 2015 allowing to take stock of country practices and available indicators on poverty, and discuss the Task Force's initial findings;

(e) The Task Force could invite renowned poverty measurement experts from the research community to join the group.

Conclusions

21. The Bureau supported the work and adopted the terms of reference of the Task Force on Poverty Measurement ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/8), subject to the above mentioned changes. The Secretariat will ensure that the issues raised in the discussion are reflected in the work plan and schedule of the Task Force. Eurostat expressed interest to participate in the Task Force.

22. The next seminar on poverty and meeting of the task force are tentatively scheduled in spring 2015.

B. Time-use surveys

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/9 by UNECE

23. The Bureau discussed possible follow-up work on time-use surveys after endorsing the Guidelines for harmonizing time-use surveys in October 2013. The Secretariat prepared a proposal for further work based on the issues identified in the Guidelines. The following points were raised in the discussion:

(a) The planned web-based collection of methodological material should be done in collaboration with Eurostat's data collection for the 2010 round of harmonized time-use statistics. The resulting pool of countries' methodologies would also serve for updating the

EU guidelines on time-use surveys. The Secretariat could consider preparing a synthesis report based on the collected material;

(b) There is a momentum to define unpaid household work and explore ways to measure it. Attaching a monetary value to unpaid work shows the importance that society attributes to this type of work as a support to the economy. Valuing unpaid work was discussed in the context of the revision of the 2008 SNA and measuring sustainable development. It was also one of Stiglitz commission's recommendations. Time-use surveys can be good sources of information for these purposes;

(c) A possible CES Task Force work in this area should be kept closely connected with EU-SILC and the ILO and OECD activities on voluntary work.

Conclusions

24. The Bureau supported the proposed activities for further work, namely (a) collecting methodological material on time-use surveys and making it available on the UNECE website, and (b) consulting with CES members a proposal to set up a Task Force for developing guidelines on valuing unpaid household work. Finland, CIS-STAT and Eurostat expressed their interest to participate in the Task Force. The Secretariat will report back to the Bureau in October 2014.

C. Migration statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/10 and 11 by the Steering Group and Task Force

25. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the Steering Group on Migration Statistics and the Task Force on Measurement of the Socio-economic Conditions of Migrants, including the proposals to extend the mandates of the groups. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau considered the work on migration statistics very important for the UNECE region. Given this, the Steering Group should be more active in identifying emerging issues and ensuring that the work is focused and progresses effectively;

(b) The role of the Steering Group should be strengthened in light of the outcome of the 2014 CES seminar on migration statistics and based on an evaluation of the impact of previous Task Forces on migration statistics;

(c) Methodological work should be undertaken to study the longitudinal aspects of migration, integration of second-generation migrants, migrant trajectories and emigration;

(d) The Task Force on Measurement of the Socio-economic Conditions of Migrants has taken a good initiative to separate population of interest into two groups – the foreign-born and the second-generation descendants. Given the many relevant socio-economic indicators, the Task Force should keep its practical focus.

Conclusions

26. The Bureau extended the mandate of the Task Force on Measurement of the Socio-economic Conditions of Migrants for one year.

27. The Secretariat will revise the terms of reference of the Steering Group on migration statistics to take into account the comments by the Bureau and the outcome of the CES seminar on migration statistics in April 2014. Mexico expressed its interest in participating in the Steering Group. The Secretariat will report back to the Bureau in October 2014.

D. Measuring human capital

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/12 by UNECE

Conclusions

28. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work of the Task Force on Measuring Human Capital, and asked the Task Force to proceed in line with its terms of reference.

E. Measuring sustainable development and implementation of SEEA

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/13 by UNECE

29. The Bureau discussed the follow-up to the CES 2013 seminar on challenges in measuring sustainable development and implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) based on a paper prepared by the Secretariat. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) In addition to the UNECE pilot testing of the indicators with eight volunteering countries (Australia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine), OECD plans to include in their 2015-16 work plan the testing of indicators from the CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development in OECD countries with the aim of using them for monitoring and benchmarking the comparative performance of countries. The testing will be done in close collaboration with UNECE;

(b) Eurostat welcomes the initiative to raise awareness about the CES Recommendations and supports the work on adjusting the indicators from the CES Recommendations to the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Many countries with developing statistical systems need capacity building in the implementation of SEEA.

Conclusions

30. The Bureau supported the follow-up activities to the CES 2013 seminar as proposed in document ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/13, namely:

(a) Pilot testing of the CES Recommendations on measuring sustainable development: mapping the indicators of the CES Recommendations with national indicators, exploring data availability, and compiling case studies on the experiences in using the CES Recommendations in Italy, Mexico, Slovenia and Ukraine;

(b) Preparing stocktaking reports on measuring transboundary impacts in the context of sustainable development, measuring sustainable development at different scales, and linking subjective and objective indicators;

(c) Organising a joint UNECE/OECD seminar on the implementation of SEEA.

F. Draft Guide to measuring global production

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/14 by the Task Force

31. The Guide to measuring global production was consulted with Bureau members prior to the meeting. All eight replies received were of the opinion that the Guide is useful

and ready to be sent for electronic consultation to all CES members. The following issues were raised in the written replies:

(a) The Task Force has accomplished important work. The Guide should be circulated beyond CES members to all national statistical offices and relevant international organizations in line with the UN Statistical Commission's procedures for providing guidance on SNA recommendations. The Secretariat will cooperate with UNSD to organize a global consultation of the Guide;

(b) The Guide should be updated in 5 to 7 years from now to reflect the new country circumstances, lessons learned from its implementation and to identify new case studies;

(c) Recording global production arrangements in national and international accounts presents numerous and complex challenges. Countries need a forum to discuss implementation challenges, share experience and coordinate the development work. The Steering Group on National Accounts should develop a proposal how the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Group of Experts on National Accounts could respond to this need.

Conclusions

32. The Secretariat will circulate the draft Guide to all CES members for electronic consultation in view of finalizing it in the course of 2014. The Guide is planned to be presented to the 2015 CES plenary session for endorsement.

33. The Steering Group on National Accounts will develop a proposal for establishing a forum on global production, possibly in the form of an expert meeting or a special session where ongoing issues related to global production could be discussed. The proposal should be submitted to the October 2014 Bureau meeting.

G. Outcomes of the projects working under the High-level Group for the modernisation of statistical production and services in 2013

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/15 by the High-level Group

34. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work and the outcomes of two international collaboration projects carried out under the High-level Group (HLG) during 2013. The first project concerned the development of a Common Statistical Production Architecture, and the second one the development and enhancement of the Frameworks and Standards for Statistical Modernisation.

35. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The project outputs are very useful, represent good value for money, and are already being used in several organisations;

(b) Two projects to be completed by the end of 2014 are under way, namely on the implementation of the Common Statistical Production Architecture and the use of "Big Data" for official statistics. More components that are compliant with the Common Statistical Production Architecture will become available by the end of 2014. This will make it easier to promote the project outputs beyond participating countries and ensure wider implementation of the common architecture;

(c) The standards such as Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) are complementary rather than competing. SDMX is mainly considered appropriate for transfers of aggregate data, while DDI is more suitable for micro-data. So far, national statistical organisations have

prioritized micro-data, and hence DDI. OECD is developing SDMX based dissemination tools that could be shared;

(d) A more sustainable funding mechanism is needed to support HLG projects and ensure maintenance of outputs. The Secretariat is considering different approaches, including a subscription-based model.

Conclusions

36. The Bureau strongly supported the HLG work, and appreciated the outcomes of the projects in 2013. The Bureau emphasised the need for continuity supported by an appropriate funding mechanism, and the need for HLG to coordinate with other international activities.

IV. Preparation for the Conference of European Statisticians 2014 plenary session

A. Organisation of the Conference of European Statisticians 2014 seminar "Migration statistics"

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/16 by Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, CIS-STAT, UNSD and UNECE

37. The Bureau discussed the organization of the CES 2014 seminar on migration statistics based on an outline prepared by the seminar and session organizers. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) Countries should be encouraged to focus on issues that are of general interest instead of reporting national experiences;

(b) The session organizers should draft an issue paper to highlight the challenges presented in the papers and to focus the seminar. The questions to be considered during the general discussion should be provided well in advance of the seminar.

Conclusions

38. The Bureau agreed with the proposed agenda and format of the seminar. The session organisers should prepare in advance a short issue paper to focus the seminar and sessions, and a set of questions for general discussion.

39. The seminar will take place on Thursday, 10 April 2014, from 09:30 to 16:10. The seminar organisers will proceed with the preparations, taking into account the recommendations by the Bureau.

B. Organisation of the Conference of European Statisticians 2014 seminar "What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?"

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/17 by United Kingdom, Eurostat and Sweden

40. The Bureau discussed the organization of the CES 2014 seminar on the value of official statistics based on an outline prepared by the seminar and session organizers. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau welcomed the proposed keynote speaker, John Pullinger, President of the United Kingdom Royal Statistical Society and the Librarian of the House of Commons;

(b) Special technological and interactive features (e.g. webstreaming, live questions from the web, vote pads, etc.) should be used only if they add value to the seminar and do not disrupt the discussion. The new approaches have to be tested before using them at the CES;

(c) As the topic is about communication, it is important to keep the debate open and invite stakeholders to join in. This could be done by using low-cost means, such as a video presenting views of young people and the private sector on the value of official statistics;

(d) It would be useful to provide an opportunity for the staff of national statistical offices to remotely follow the discussions;

(e) Mexico will run a survey about the opinions of different groups of users (households, private sector, academia and media) on official statistics and will share the results.

Conclusions

41. The seminar organiser will prepare a list of possible technological services that may be needed during the seminar, ask OECD to provide a quote for these and, if considered appropriate, investigate the possibilities of financing the technical support. The Bureau supported the suggestion to prepare a video to gather the views of young people and private sector.

42. The seminar will take place on Wednesday, 9 April 2014, from 09:50 to 17:30. The seminar organisers will proceed with the preparations, taking into account the recommendations by the Bureau.

C. Recommendations on climate change related statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/18 by the Task Force

43. The Bureau considered whether the draft Recommendations on climate change related statistics are ready to be circulated to all CES members for electronic consultation with a plan to present them to the CES 2014 plenary session for endorsement. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) The Bureau underlined the need for national statistical offices to start implementing the Recommendations, in particular to improve the coherence of greenhouse gas inventory data with other statistics and develop capacities in geospatial information systems;

(b) Turkey expressed its interest in participating in the Steering Group indicated in the draft *Recommendations on Climate Change related Statistics*;

(c) One of the achievements of the Task Force was to establish a close dialogue with the international climate change community. This momentum should be used for further work in collaboration with the climate change community after a consultation of national statistical offices' views and priorities.

Conclusions

44. The Secretariat will circulate the *Recommendations on climate change related statistics* to all CES members for electronic consultation in view of presenting them to the

CES 2014 plenary session for endorsement. The Secretariat will send the Recommendations for comments to the international organisations that have been involved in the work.

45. The Secretariat will consult with the CES member countries proposals for possible future work and will report back to the Bureau in October 2014.

D. Draft agenda and timetable for the 2014 plenary session

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/19 by UNECE

Conclusions

46. The Bureau approved the provisional agenda and tentative timetable for the CES 2014 plenary session (9-11 a.m. April 2014 in Paris).

V. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Programme of work documents

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/20 and 21 by UNECE

Conclusions

47. The Bureau adopted the report on the implementation of the Statistical Programme 2013 and the Biennial Evaluation Report 2012-2013 (documents ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/20 and 21).

48. The Bureau noted that the Biennial Evaluation Report is not useful for evaluating the CES work, and should be discontinued if possible.

49. The Secretariat will make a proposal to the Bureau meeting in October 2014 on how to evaluate the impact of the CES activities and the various guidelines and recommendations developed under the Conference.

VI. Organisation of Conference of European Statisticians' work

A. Updated Guidelines for organising the Conference of European Statisticians' seminars

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/22 by UNECE

Conclusions

50. The Bureau approved the updated *Guidelines for organising the CES seminars*, including the templates for seminar papers and seminar outlines.

B. Governing rules of the Conference of European Statisticians

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2014/JAN/23 by UNECE

Conclusions

51. The Bureau reviewed the *Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies*, adopted by the sixty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, and agreed that the *Rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau* are in line with the new

ECE Guidelines. The forthcoming CES plenary session will be informed about the updated UNECE Guidelines.

52. The Secretariat will clarify some recommendations in the Guidelines concerning registration of participants and circulation of the draft conclusions from the meetings.

VII. Presentation of International Labour Organization's activities related to statistics

53. The International Labour Organization (ILO) presented its statistical activities. The ILO statistical work focuses on implementing and promoting resolutions and recommendations of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS).

54. ICLS held its 19th Conference in 2013 which marked the 90th Anniversary of ICLS. The 19th Conference adopted, among others, resolutions on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization; forced labour; and labour migration. The Russian translation of the Resolutions will become available shortly.

55. The work deals with many topics related to labour statistics: measuring wages, labour migration, labour markets, conditions of work, skills mismatch, labour costs and productivity, social protection, child labour, forced labour and human trafficking; rural/urban employment; working time and time-use surveys; statistics on cooperatives; social dialogue statistics; gender mainstreaming in labour statistics; work-related violence; sectoral employment; decent work; and statistics on green jobs. It also relates to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

56. ILO maintains statistical classifications: the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and International Classification by Status in Employment (ICSE). ILO recently published, in collaboration with partner organisations, three manuals on informality; volunteer work; and employment in tourism sector.

57. ILO works in collaboration with CES in several areas, including population and housing censuses, consumer prices and quality of employment.

58. The following issues were raised in the discussion:

(a) There are many complementarities and synergies in ILO and CES work;

(b) CES and ILO could promote closer cooperation among countries with common migration flows to improve the quality of migration statistics;

(c) Concerns were expressed about the different concepts applied in labour statistics by Eurostat and ILO. The organizations are gradually moving towards common definitions. Green jobs is a new area where international organizations are working together to define common definitions;

(d) OECD plans to operationalize the concepts developed by the joint UNECE/Eurostat/ ILO/OECD expert group on quality of employment focusing on earnings, labour market security and quality of labour markets. Data collection will start shortly in collaboration with Eurostat and the EU Directorate General on Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion.

Conclusions

59. The Bureau thanked Mr. Diez de Medina, the Director of Statistics Department of ILO for the interesting and informative presentation, and invited ILO to take part in the Conference of European Statisticians on 9-11 April 2014, in particular at the CES seminar on migration statistics on 10 April 2014.

VIII. Dates and venue of the next meetings

60. The CES Bureau confirmed the dates for its next meetings as follows:

(a) A short Bureau meeting will take place during the CES 2014 plenary session to decide on the topics for the 2015 CES seminars and any other urgent matters (a meeting of 15-20 minutes during 9 April 2014 lunch);

(b) The next Bureau meeting will take place on 21-22 October 2014 in Ottawa, Canada;

(c) The subsequent Bureau meetings are planned to be held on 17-18 February 2015 in Geneva and on 20-21 October 2015, venue to be decided;

(d) The Bureau meetings in 2016 are tentatively scheduled to the week of 8 February and 18-19 October, venues to be decided.

61. The 62nd CES plenary session will take place in Paris, back-to-back with the OECD Statistics Committee meeting, starting at 9:30 on 9 April and finishing by 12:30 on 11 April 2014.

62. The 63rd CES plenary session will take place during the week of 15 June 2015 in Geneva. The 64th CES plenary session is tentatively scheduled to be held on 27-29 April 2016 in Paris.